

County of Marin
OFFICE OF THE TREASURER-TAX COLLECTOR
Civic Center, San Rafael, California
Telephone 479-1100

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April 28, 1965

no file

Governmental Research Council
of San Mateo County
1941 O'Farrell Street
San Mateo, California

Attention: W. Kenneth Norris
Executive Director

Gentlemen:

This is in answer to your letter inquiring about how we send duplicate tax bills to property owners who have tax paying agents.

As you no doubt are aware, we did this for the first time last year with what I think were more than satisfactory results. Most of the comments which we received in the office indicated that the people who received these copies were more than pleased to be able to find out how much taxes they were paying and what they were paying them for. I am enclosing a copy of our bill showing the information which they received and which is marked "copy".

We do not at this time anticipate any changes in the tax bill for the coming year. One suggestion that I have for you may be to send the copies out at a later date than the bills because we did receive payments on the copies which we ultimately had to return to the individuals concerned. Too, some people were confused when they received the bill and wondered whether or not the tax paying agency had received one.

As far as news releases are concerned, we released one story to the daily newspaper of the county along the lines offering the taxpayers more information so that they could vote more intelligently and the newspapers were cooperative. We even had an editorial comment commending us for sending out this copy.

Our problem in Marin County is not as unique as the one in San Mateo with respect to tax paying agencies. We have approximately 10,000 bills going to tax paying agencies out of a total of 75,000 bills. I believe that you do find you have many more percentagewise. What problem this will cause you I do not know because I am not familiar with your method of billing. The internal problem in the office for mailing these copies is not one which created any great deal of concern because we were already processing the tax paying agencies' bills before we mailed the regular tax bills. Therefore, all we did was to order the extra copies attached to the bills that we were sending to the tax paying agencies, burst bills, stuff same, and mail them. We had no problem with addresses because we carried the address of the owner as shown upon the record and not the address of the tax paying agency. Our records indicate the tax paying agency purely by Cortac number.

As far as I am concerned, the sending of the copy of the bill to the people whose agency pays their taxes is almost mandatory because now we have the facilities to do so, and I believe that although there is some expense involved ie: mailing, envelopes, etc. I feel that the service to the taxpayer far outweighs the cost involved, and too, I feel I have done a better job by getting this information into the hands of the taxpayer.

We also have an information booklet which goes to each new taxpayer or each recipient of a recorded instrument conveying title to real property and this is included with the deed by the County Recorder. I am enclosing a copy of this for your perusal.

I trust the above will be of some help. We certainly would like to cooperate in any way we can and if you would like to come up and see us, we could show you exactly the way the program works. If there is anything further you need, please feel free to write.

Very truly yours,

/S

Stanley J. Fontez
Treasurer-Tax Collector

sjf:fc
cc: Ross Conti

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